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a distinguished American so to be honored in Saint Paul's, but a good thing, as every observer seemed to feel."

We may not approve of all the British ways of empire in Ireland, in Mesopotamia, in India and Egypt; we know there are many Britains who disapprove of those ways. But, in the large, Britain has been a great civilizing agency around the world, shedding intelligence and justice in the dark corners everywhere. Upon the enduring principles of law and civil liberty Great Britain and America have thought and wrought alike. In spite of differences, therefore, Great Britain and the United States should continue shoulder to shoulder, for upon that depends much of the future peace and happiness of the world. Not that we may catch more flies with molasses than with vinegar; but that we may retain the dignity of a self-respecting people given to minding our own business, it would seem the course of right mindedness to leave unsaid those things calculated to break down the friendship between this and any other nation. Especially is this true of our relations with Britain now and always.

SIZE AND PRINCIPLE

IT is an old and truthful saying that there is as much principle in a cent as there is in a dollar. There is as much principle in our treatment of small States as there is in our relations with the large. Our State Department has done the right thing toward Costa Rica; it has recognized the government of that most southern of the Central American States.

Costa Rica has a population less than that of the city of Washington; but it is a free, sovereign, and independent State. Its business relates for the most part to bananas and coffee. Having been first discovered by Columbus in 1502 and settled in 1523, it has something of the claims incident to age; but its primary claim rests on the fact that it is a republic, a nation.

The details leading to this most recent act of our State Department are not without interest. On the 27th of January, 1917, the then Constitutional Government of Costa Rica was overthrown by one Federico Tinoco. As a result of this *coup*, President Gonzalez was forced to flee the country. When the question appeared before the United States Government whether we should recognize the new order, President Wilson issued a pronunciamiento, setting forth the principle that the United States could not recognize a revolutionary government in Latin American countries. This meant that we declined to recognize Tinoco's régime on the ground that his government did not represent the will of the people of Costa Rica. As a result of this

policy, Federico Tinoco left Costa Rica in August, 1919. The following month his government fell. As a result of an election, Julio Acosta became President in accordance with the constitution of that country. On the theory that the new President holds his office as a result of the freely expressed will of the people of Costa Rica, our government has recognized the new order of things in that country and diplomatic relations are to be resumed.

AN INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

A SPECIAL correspondent contributes to this issue facts pertaining to the formation of the International Chamber of Commerce, from which some considerable consolation may be derived at a time when it is woefully lacking in other narratives of happenings in Europe.

Not without significance is the fact that manufacturers, traders, bankers of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium, and the United States, who had planned for this happy consummation ere the war began, continued their negotiations while the war was on, and as soon as possible after the armistice was signed proceeded to federate the separate national chambers and to lay down a platform which will admit all nations that accept the international creed defined in the chamber's organic law.

Neither the group of idealists—who at the same time are successful business men—that had brought this organization into being, nor we, are so naïve or sanguine as to suppose that of a sudden nations that go to war for new territory, for wider markets and additional areas in which to invest "surplus wealth" will become "internationalized" in point of view. Events since the armistice with Germany and since the Treaty of Versailles was signed would chill any such hope. But it is encouraging that such an organization now exists; that it plans to include as many national groups as possible, and that it has defined a program so genuinely educational in its details. Statesmen hereafter must reckon with it just as national lawmakers in the United States have come to see that they must listen to the united opinion of the more than three thousand local chambers of commerce federated in the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

This international organization has time and dire necessity on its side now. The facts as to destruction of wealth, compiled by Mr. Austin, which we print in this number of the *ADVOCATE*, are of a kind that will aid the propagandists of this cause when they go out to seek members. Even German "captains of industry" and bankers must understand now that nationalistic

commercialism, employing force and relying on an army to win for it new markets, when it comes under the blast of the tornado of wrath that a challenge to liberty involves, is a reed shaken in the wind. The fathers and mothers of the world are not going to let the trading, banking, and manufacturing circles of victorious nations capitalize the valor of dead soldiers, as usually has been the case in the past.

KING ALBERT of Belgium, not long since, went over the Verdun region in France. He had a "Blue Devil" guide. The latter quotes the monarch as saying, after he left the scene of terrible carnage, "Sherman said all that there is to be said about war in three words." Brevity sometimes is the soul of wisdom as well as of wit.

WAR censorship of news was severely criticized at the recent meeting of the British Imperial Press Congress sitting in Ottawa. Other resolutions carried showed that the iron has gone deeply into the souls of working journalists who have had their freedom hampered since 1914. But hardly has escape from one foe been compassed when another appears in the form of great cable, telegraph, and telephone monopolies that plan not only to distribute news, but also to control it. Happily the new Premier of the Dominion, Arthur Meighen, in his formal speech, welcoming journalists from the empire to the Dominion, said: "The distribution of news is now the greatest trust in the whole body democratic. The opportunities for good were infinite; the possibilities of mischief just as vast."

MR. H. G. WELLS, in a speech he recently made before the first hundred British airmen, pioneers in the art of aviation, spoke with the authority of a scientist and with that imagination which led him long before aviation became practicable to indicate in his quasi-scientific fiction what it might ultimately do. In this speech he called attention to the internationalizing effect which aviation for normal commercial and touring purposes is bound to have upon life in Europe. The present network of boundaries and the rapidly developing code of control of flyers by passports, examinations by customs officers, and like measures, will strangle the new art of navigation for a time. Then will come a revolt against the "hopeless futility" of dealing with the new mode of intercommunication on any nationalistic or imperialistic basis. Mr. Wells sees so much farther, often, than any statesman of his time that his words are a welcome addition to the collection of optimistic opinions about the future of civilization.

THE AALAND ISLANDS' DISPUTE AND THE LEAGUE

By A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE case of the Aaland Islands, now before the Council of the League of Nations, is of peculiar interest, not only because it directly concerns peace between Sweden and Finland, but still more because it shows for the first time the successive steps by which the League of Nations may be called in to prevent war.

Curiously enough, this dispute has brought into play nearly every method of procedure open to the Council, including the bringing up of the case by a disinterested party, the status before the Council of a small State not a member of the Council and of another State not a member of the League, and the reference of the purely judicial elements of the problem to a court of justice. Regardless of the immediate problem involved, the dispute is vitally important as outlining a method of international co-operation wholly unknown until the creation of the League of Nations.

By way of preface, it should be said that the Aaland Islands form a small archipelago contiguous to the shores of Finland. A part of Russia until the break-up of the old Empire, they are now claimed by Finland on the grounds of inheritance and of contiguity, and by Sweden on the ground of self-determination. The contest between the two States has become so bitter that Sweden has temporarily withdrawn her minister from Helsingfors and war has been freely predicted.

It was at this point that the League of Nations began to function. Great Britain, a third party, with no interest in the dispute except as it involved the general preservation of peace, referred the matter on June 19 to the Council of the League of Nations, under Article XI of the Covenant, which says: "It is also declared to be the friendly right of each member of the League to bring to the attention of the Assembly or of the Council any circumstances whatever, affecting international relations, which threaten to disturb international peace or the good understanding between nations upon which peace depends." Automatically, therefore, a process looking toward a peaceful solution was set in motion. This process would have been impossible under the pre-war system of international disorganization before the creation of the League machinery. By means of it a disinterested State was enabled, as a matter of right and without assuming an unfriendly attitude toward either contestant, to bring the question immediately before an existing world organization.

The facts of the case were sent immediately to all States in the League, the members of the Council were called together, and Sweden and Finland were invited to submit statements. The attention of the world thus became focused upon the dispute and the task of evolving a peaceful settlement became a matter of immediate international interest. It was exactly this step which was lacking in late July and August, 1914, when Sir Edward Grey made every effort to bring the nations together about a common conference table.

The Council assembled in London on July 9. The first question before it was the status of Sweden and Finland in the deliberations. Sweden was not a mem-